

Bryant, Carl Carter, Isabella Conneaney, Chelsea Moore, Julia Rafferty, Victoria Delgado, Alaina Foy, Emma Fisher, Danica Godshall, Ethan Kindt, Mya Christian, Michael Faulls, Julia Guevara, Yukta Narayan, Simran Kaur, Olivia Voit, Xavier Woods, Briana Culbert, David Maturo, Bellarose Bostwick, Ashlee Jarmen, Malcolm Miller, Zachary Morgan, Morgan Warren, Amaris Bussie, Olivia Jaci, Ileana Jones, Daisy Schreiner, Jade Rivera, Farrah Sacharok, Ciara Blas, Joshua DeGuzman, Alina Hoover, Jania Long, Juliana Pit, Hailey Fair, Alexandra Lowry, Santos Diaz, Tehya Dickinson, Anaya Jones, Jacqueline Reagan, Emily Reed, Chloe Reyes, Donovan Clement, Brendan Connor, Gianna McIntyre, Tianna Smith, Rocco Laltrella Bruce, Asiya Robinson, Kimberly Sorbello, Marco Viloria, Gianna Wolfe, Olivia Devine, Camryn Ransom, Hunter Young, Colin Schumacher, Angel Mangini, Nicholas Marengo, Hailey Parker, Sydney Shute, Ashley Baresich, Christopher Deeley, Jaiana Ray, Ashley Scheld, John Cooper, Megan Grace, Nathan Jackson, Mariela Dimalaluan, Deziree Faith Johannesen, Devon Moss, Millicent Sannoh.

CONGRATULATING SHRI  
NARENDRA MODI ON HIS RE-  
ELECTION AS CHIEF MINISTER  
OF GUJARAT

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, in one of my first acts of the 113th Congress as the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including India, I rise today to congratulate Shri Narendra Modi on his reelection as Chief Minister of India's Gujarat state.

Shri Modi's new term as Chief Minister will be his fourth—an historic achievement for the Honorable Narendra Modi and his some 60 million constituents, as no other CM has served Gujarat for as many terms. Shri Modi became the longest-serving CM of Gujarat in 2007.

Since 2001, CM Modi has led a decade of unprecedented growth and development in Gujarat. Because of his extraordinary leadership, Gujarat is now an economic powerhouse with companies like Ford and General Motors also setting up factories in a move that promises to strengthen U.S.-India trade and investment.

I thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, founder and President of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), for the outstanding work he has done and continues to do in the U.S. Congress to promote U.S.-Gujarat trade and the Vibrant Gujarat initiative which has become an example of CM Modi's visionary approach for inclusive development.

CM Modi's philosophy of bringing development to "the doorstep of every poor person, every farmer, every worker" is a philosophy that resonates beyond the boundaries of Gujarat because it is a philosophy that transcends caste, culture, regional and religious differences.

I believe CM Modi's approach to empowerment is why Gujarat is now the global gateway

to India. His philosophy of inclusiveness is the reason why delegates from more than 121 countries attended the Vibrant Gujarat 2013 Summit to explore business opportunities and forge strategic partnerships. It is the reason why voters support Shri Modi time and again.

Shri Modi's vision is rare. His leadership is remarkable. But his connection to Mahatma Gandhi is what strikes me most. Gujarat is Gandhi's land. By providence or otherwise, it is also the land where Shri Modi serves. As such, it is little wonder that Gujarat State, having historically given leadership to the entire Nation and now ranked first in economic freedom in India, continues to brighten the hopes and dreams of so many.

With such accomplishment, it is my sincere hope that the United States will take a new look at Gujarat and support more openly and fully the ideas of CM Modi as he works for the betterment of the world's economy by creating jobs at home and abroad for purposes of improving the lives of people across the globe.

HONORING JORDAN K. DONNER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan K. Donner. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan K. Donner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM ACT

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, Rep. GENE GREEN and I are introducing the bipartisan Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Act to make permanent one of the federal government's most successful workplace health and safety programs.

This legislation would codify a successful program, the Voluntary Protection Program, operated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that recognizes and rewards employers who voluntarily work to improve the health and safety of their workplaces. The program is currently operating but has never been authorized in law and was proposed to be cut by the Obama administra-

tion's fiscal year 2011 budget. While the administration backed away from those cuts in its more recent budget proposals, this legislation would put the program on a more solid foundation by specifically authorizing it in law.

Since the VPP was created in 1982, it has grown to include more than 2,200 worksites and more than 921,000 employees. A 2007 report noted that federal VPP worksites saved the government more than \$59 million by avoiding injuries and that private sector VPP participants saved more than \$300 million. Participating workplaces have an illness and injury rate that, on average, is 50 percent below that of their industry.

Business owners in my district have reported to me that the relationship between OSHA and businesses has become more adversarial over the past couple years. While OSHA does have a responsibility to enforce workplace safety laws, it has been my experience that most employers want to run safe workplaces. The VPP program provides a mechanism for OSHA to build a more constructive relationship with employers who have demonstrated a willingness to invest in workplace safety. This creates an incentive for other employers to follow suit, improving safety and saving money on enforcement costs at the same time.

I hope that our colleagues will join us in authorizing this bipartisan and successful workplace safety program.

### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INDONESIAN FAMILY REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleagues, Rep. FRANK PALLONE JR., Rep. CHRIS SMITH, Rep. LUIS GUTIERREZ, Rep. MADELEINE BORDALLO, Rep. RUSH HOLT, which would simply allow Christian Indonesian citizens fleeing persecution, many of whom arrived during a five-year timeframe (January 1, 1997–November 30, 2002) and were denied asylum solely for missing the one-year filing deadline, the opportunity to reopen their claims during the two-year period following enactment.

Beginning in 1997, many Indonesian Christians fled religious persecution in Indonesia, where extreme violence and destruction of churches drove them from their homes. These individuals came to this country, seeking relief from extreme violence and persecution for their religious beliefs, but were unable to make the one-year filing deadline. They deserve the opportunity to have their claims heard.

The United States has long sought to protect refugees fleeing persecution and provide a process to fairly consider their claims. This bill does not, in itself, grant asylum, but merely removes a procedural barrier to their claims being considered. These individuals seeking asylum deserve a second chance to avoid the persecution they have fled and remain united with their families.